

INTERPOL issued a Red Notice asking member states to help bring him to justice.

Today, Mr. Taylor remains beyond the reach of the court. He is in Nigeria—shielded by that government. To make matters worse, Taylor continues to work to destabilize parts of West Africa. The State Department says it will not pressure Nigeria to turn Taylor over to the court.

This is completely unacceptable. Taylor is under indictment by a UN-backed court. He continues to destabilize parts of West Africa. We know where he is. The United States needs to act and it needs to act now.

Yesterday, Senator GREGG and I—along with 5 other Senators—sent a letter to the State Department urging immediate action to get Taylor to the court. It is time for the United States to do the right thing. It is time for Taylor to come before the court.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1805, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1805) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continuing against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

Pending:

Hatch (for Campbell) amendment No. 2623, to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

Kennedy amendment No. 2619, to expand the definition of armor piercing ammunition and to require the Attorney General to promulgate standards for the uniform testing of projectiles against body armor.

Craig (for Frist/Craig) amendment No. 2625, to regulate the sale and possession of armor piercing ammunition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today we begin the third day of debate on this important bill, S. 1805, addressing the problem that should outrage many Members of this Senate and by the cosponsorship we have at this moment, I believe that is the case. That outrage should be against the abuse of our courts by those who cannot change public policy through representative government but instead are attempting an end run around the State and Federal legislatures to impose their political agenda on the people of this country through litigation. In this case, their target is the one consumer product whose access is protected by nothing less than the U.S. Constitution itself; that is, firearms.

ing less than the U.S. Constitution itself; that is, firearms.

The bill, the Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act, we are talking about today and debated thoroughly yesterday and the day before, would stop what I call junk lawsuits that attempt to pin the blame and the cost of criminal misbehavior on business men and women who are following the law and selling a legal product.

This bill responds to a series of lawsuits filed primarily by municipalities advancing a variety of theories as to why gun manufacturers and sellers should be liable for the cost of injuries caused by people over whom they have no control, criminals who use firearms illegally.

This is a bipartisan bill. Let me acknowledge my Democrat sponsor, MAX BAUCUS of Montana, for his work on this initiative. Many others have helped advance it, as well as the leaders and the assistant leaders on both sides. By that demonstration, this bill is truly a bipartisan effort. The cosponsors we have to date are substantial. With myself and Senator BAUCUS included, we now have 54 cosponsors.

We introduced the bill nearly a year ago, last March, with more than half of the Senate as cosponsors at that time: Senator ALEXANDER, Senator ALLARD, Senator ALLEN, Senator BENNETT, Senator BOND, Senator BREAUX, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator BUNNING, Senator BURNS, Senator CAMPBELL, Senator CHAMBLISS, Senator COCHRAN, Senator COLEMAN, Senator COLLINS, Senator CORNYN, Senator CRAPO, Senator DOLE, Senator DOMENICI, Senator DORGAN, Senator ENSIGN, Senator ENZI, Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator GREGG, Senator HAGEL, Senator HATCH, Senator HUTCHISON, Senator INHOFE, Senator JOHNSON, Senator KYL, Senator LANDRIEU, Senator LINCOLN, Senator LOTT, Senator MILLER, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator NELSON of Nebraska, Senator NICKLES, Senator ROBERTS, Senator SANTORUM, Senator SESSIONS, Senator SHELBY, Senator SNOWE, Senator SMITH, Senator SPECTER, Senator STEVENS, Senator SUNUNU, Senator TALENT, Senator THOMAS, and Senator VOINOVICH.

This range of cosponsorship reflects extraordinarily widespread support that crosses party and geographical lines and covers the spectrum of political ideologies that is clearly always represented in the Senate. It demonstrates a strong commitment by a majority of this body to take a stand against a trend of predatory litigation that impugns the integrity of our courts, threatens a domestic industry that is critical to our Nation's defense, jeopardizes hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, and puts at risk access Americans have to a legal product used for hundreds of years across this Nation for lawful purposes such as recreation and defense.

We have been joined in this effort by a host of supporting organizations representing literally tens of millions of Americans from all walks of life. I thank them all for their effort to help pass the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. I invite my colleagues to consider a broad cross section of American citizens represented by such diverse organizations as unions, including United Mine Workers of America, United Steelworkers of America, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, the locals of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Alliance of America's Insurers, the National Association of Wholesale Distributors, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Tort Reform Association, the National Rifle Association; and more than 30 different sportsmen's groups and organizations whose members are engaged in the conservation and hunting and the shooting sports industry in all 50 States across this great Nation.

I have used the term "junk lawsuits," and I want to make it very clear, because this was part of our discussion yesterday, to anyone listening to this debate, I do not mean any disrespect to the victims of gun violence in any way who might be involved or brought into these actions by other groups.

Although their names are sometimes used in the lawsuits, they are not the people who came up with the notion of going after the industry instead of going after criminals responsible for their injuries or for their losses. The notion originated with some bureaucrats and some anti-gun advocates, and the lawyers they were with.

Victims, including their families and communities, deserve our support and our compassion, not to mention our insistence, on the aggressive enforcement of the laws that provide punishment for the criminals who have caused harm to them.

There are adequate laws out there now, and we constantly encourage our courts to go after the criminal, to lock them up, and to toss the key away when they are involved in gun violence and when they use a gun in the commission of a crime. If those laws need to be toughened, our law enforcement efforts improved, then the proper source of help is the legislatures and the governments, not the courts, and certainly not law-abiding businessmen and workers who have nothing to do with their victimization. No.

The reason there are junk lawsuits is that they do not target the responsible party for those terrible crimes. They are predatory litigation looking for a convenient deep pocket to pay for somebody else's criminal behavior. Let me repeat that. I define junk lawsuits as predatory litigation looking for a convenient deep pocket to pay for somebody else's criminal behavior.